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Archives
1863

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

OF THE

MARYLAND

Agricultural College,

TO THE

Legislature of Maryland

JANUARY SESSION, 1864.

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This is a part of
Report of Trustees
1866

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

*The Trustees of the Maryland Agricultural College respectfully
submit the following Report:*

THIS Institution originated in an application of certain Gentlemen to the Legislature of the State, at the January Session, 1856, to endow an AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, upon the condition, that they, and others who might be associated with them, would raise by subscription to the Stock and donations to the Institution, the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars, to be expended in the purchase of the land and erection thereon of the necessary buildings.

This proposition was accepted by that Honorable Body, and an Act of Incorporation was passed, in which the applicants were appointed Commissioners to obtain the requisite subscription and donations, and upon the obtainment of the same, authorized to call a meeting of the Stockholders, for the purpose of electing Trustees—upon whose Report to the Comptroller, that bona fide subscriptions for two thousand shares, of twenty-five dollars each, to the Stock had been received, that the lands for the Farm, not less than fifty acres, had been purchased, and the buildings necessary for the College and the Farm erected thereon, the College was declared to be entitled from the Treasury of the State to the annual sum of six thousand dollars, which said annual sum of six thousand dollars was appropriated out of any unappropriated money in the Treasury, as an annual endowment of the College; and the Comptroller directed, if said Report was made at any time before the 1st day of February, 1858, to issue his warrant

to the Treasurer, who was required to pay to the said Board of Trustees, or their order, *then and annually* thereafter, the sum of six thousand dollars. Each and every one of these conditions have been complied with, not only in their letter but in their spirit. The Board having purchased 428 acres of land, admirably located on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, and erected thereon all the Buildings necessary for the College,—buildings of the most substantial character, and in every respect as well suited to the particular purpose as those of any College in the United States. In this connection, they beg leave to express the earnest hope that your Honorable Body, as a body, or at least through a Committee of both Houses, will visit the Institution, at such time as may suit your convenience, and examine not only the accommodations they afford for the comfort and health of the Pupils, but the system of education pursued, the discipline enforced, the order observed, and the high character illustrated by the Professors and Pupils. The Trustees desire this, not only because they feel assured, that such examination will demonstrate the fidelity with which they have discharged the obligations imposed upon them by the compact of the Stockholders with the State, but because they are satisfied that such an examination will draw from the Committee a Report which will enlighten the public mind in regard to the design of the Institution, correct misapprehensions as to its management, and give assurance to the people of the State of the wisdom of the Legislature in endowing such a College,—but fearing the multiplied and important duties of your Honorable Body, during the present session, may forbid the devotion of so much of your time as would be required for this purpose, they beg leave most respectfully to present the following condensed statement of the design and object of the Institution, extracted from the Report of their Register, Dr. J. O. WHARTON, as embodying their views and purposes in the establishment of the Institution:

"While the Trustees are constrained by the amount of means now at their command to limit their operations, they desire to make known distinctly the ultimate ends and purposes by which they are governed. .

"Their scheme then is first, an Educational Institution in its most comprehensive sense. Its definition of Education is that it is the united symmetrical development and instruction of the religious, the intellectual and the physical qualities of the man. It recognizes the whole man in all the departments of his being as the object of its care. Its aim is not to instruct merely, not to impart knowledge merely, but to awaken, to develop, to train and discipline all the latent inborn powers and faculties of the man, that he may command them for the high and noble uses of which they may be capable, or for which they were designed.

"It is not to be supposed then, that what we designate an Agricultural College, aims merely at professional instruction in agriculture. The plan undoubtedly embraces such instruction, but it is far more comprehensive. It claims for the farmer or mechanic, or for whomsoever its care may be sought, first, his development as a man, trained and fitted to the full extent of his capacity, for all the duties of a man and a citizen. To this end it offers him the advantage of the most approved systems of moral and intellectual culture; and super-adds to these for his physical training, moderate and systematic exercises in the field and in the workshop, as the best means of laying the foundation of future health and energy, in a well developed, robust, physical constitution.

"The scheme embraces the best practical training in Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. The Student learns the various useful details of Agriculture and Horticulture and the Mechanic Arts: he acquires skill and handi-craft in the use of tools and implements, from the hammer or the hoe, to the scythe or the plough; he learns the construction and management of all such machinery as he may probably have the future use of. These practical exercises are learned simultane-

ously with his scientific instruction, in the lecture room, and the valuable mental habit is acquired of referring practices to their principles, and of watching and noting the facts and circumstances which in practice modify the application of purely scientific theories. The well informed mind, and the cunning right hand will learn to work together, and labor will be enlightened and dignified by its association with science."

From this statement, it will be seen that this is no mere Manual Labour School, or a College intended to qualify its Students *only* for the pursuits of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, but a Literary Institution of as high a grade as any in our country, in which the youth committed to our charge are as thoroughly instructed in every department of learning as they are in any College in our land, as well prepared for any profession, and for whose honors as great attainments are required as those of any other similar institution, whilst to these are superadded the benefits, moral, physical and practical, resulting from the introduction of systematic and regular Agricultural and Mechanical Labors.

The primary and most important of the objects contemplated by the introduction of these labors, are moral and physical, whilst the dexterity and skill in the use of implements, and the practical knowledge of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, acquired by the Students, will peculiarly fit them for these pursuits. The *vice* of our educated Young Men, which lies at the foundation of all other vices, is contempt for Agricultural, Mechanical and all other physical labors, or results from habits of physical indolence, acquired during their Collegiate life—to guard against which, is the primary object we hope to attain, and is in our estimation paramount to any other advantage derived by our Students from these labors—for this purpose we are aware of no means, so effective, as to *dignify labor* by its connection with intellectual and moral culture.

The Board of Trustees are happy in the belief, that this important part of their plan, is well illustrated by the character and conduct of the Young Gentlemen who have availed themselves of the privileges and advantages here afforded them, and that such knowledge of scientific and practical Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts will be acquired, as will eminently fit them for these pursuits; whilst the physical energy and health resulting from these exercises, will prepare them not only for these pursuits, but for any other Profession for which they may be destined.

The Board deeply regrets, that they have not only been unable to obtain the means necessary for the erection of a large and commodious Workshop for the instruction and practice of the Students in the Mechanic Arts, (which is a most important part of their design,) but have labored under great difficulties and embarrassments, in meeting the demands upon them for the ordinary expenses of the Institution. They submit herewith a statement of their Register and Treasurer of their receipts from all sources, and their expenditures for all purposes, from their organization as a Board to the present time, from which these facts will appear. Although they had obtained subscriptions to the Stock to nearly the amount of \$56,000, they have as yet been able to collect but \$13,472 63, that in their anxiety to have a building in every respect suitable for the purpose, with every comfort and every means of preserving the Health of the Students, and relying upon the payment of all subscriptions, they have expended in the construction of the College Building, \$46,902 03—in Furniture, Library and Philosophical Apparatus more than \$7,000 00—in the erection of suitable buildings for residences of President and Professors \$7,351 71—that the States donation has been applied as contemplated by the Charter in the payment of Professors' and Officers' Salaries, Furniture, Apparatus, &c. That the system pursued in the management of the Farm, if productive of no striking results, commends itself by its self-sustaining character, and that whatever improvements have been made, have been met by its own

resources—that the Board have liberally supplied all advantages of instruction to the Pupils, by engaging the services of Gentlemen of distinction and learning as Instructors in every branch of science taught in the best Colleges of our country, and with equal liberality provided for the health and comfort of the youth committed to their charge.

The Board will direct a series of experiments to be instituted, which they hope will be productive of much benefit to the Agricultural interests of the State, whilst they regret, that those heretofore conducted to test the relative value of most of the Fertilizers offered for sale in our market, have been made upon so large a scale; and necessarily with such variance in the qualities of the soil, as to render the results of little or no value, and their publication as likely to mislead the public as to do injustice to the manufacturers.

They submit herewith, a Report from the President of the Faculty, under whose judicious management the College is now eminently prospering, from which will be derived all information pursued—the discipline enforced—the number of Students, &c., to which they respectfully call the attention of the Legislature.

The present indebtedness of the Institution, as shown by the Registers statement is, about \$43,772 26.

Amount due C. B. Calvert, on the purchase of the same,	\$10,000.00	
Interest,	3,000.00	
	<hr/>	\$13,000.00
Coupon Bonds,		15,000.00
J. O. Wharton for advances to September 1st, 1862,	\$8,955.80	
Interest on the same,	816.46	
	<hr/>	9,772.26
Floating debt about,		6,000.00
		<hr/>
		\$43,772.26

This debt originated in the excess of expenditures for the purchase of the land, the construction of College Building, and Professors Houses, the purchase of Stock and Implements, and Provender for first year for Farm and Garden, and for all expenses of the College, beyond the current receipts, increased by interest on the same.

With a view to the reduction of this debt, the Board have authorized the sale of about 200 acres of the Rossburg Estate, which when effected, will leave 228 acres with all the buildings on the property, a quantity much exceeding that required by the Charter, and amply sufficient for all the purposes of the Institution, all will, by rigid economy, and the strictest accountability endeavor to effect a large reduction in the ordinary expenses of the College, that the surplus of receipts over and above the necessary expenses may be applied to the same object.

The Board earnestly appeal to your Honorable Body to foster and sustain an Institution established by the wisdom of your Predecessors—founded upon the truest educational principles—which, notwithstanding the calamities of war, is prosperous, and receiving the patronage of our own people—is fitting our own youth for every pursuit in life, dignifying labor by its connection with intellectual and moral culture, and will, they believe, confer untold benefits upon our posterity.

By order of the Board,

JAMES T. EARLE, *President, pro tem.*

*To the Board of Trustees of the
Maryland Agricultural College.*

GENTLEMEN :

I beg leave to report to your body, that I took charge of this Institution in September, 1861, finding 17 pupils in the College. The number with which the last session closed was 67. With one exception the Students are all from our own state. By my own experience and by consulting the former Catalogues of Maryland Colleges, I learn that nearly two-thirds of all patronage is derived from other States. You may therefore judge what would have been our prosperity, but for the untoward condition of the affairs of the country. Prior to the war, eight States besides our own were represented.

Assuming the charge of the Institution after the duties of the year had begun, it has not been my design to make any change in the general management of the College—not to re-cast its type, but simply to strengthen its capacities, and adorn it with new accomplishments. In the management of the youth, I have depended more on proper feelings on their part than on any very stringent measures of my own—developing in them right principles, and then appealing to those principles. I have found this method successful, for the Students seeing that reliance is placed on their right and honorable feelings find themselves insensibly governed by those feelings. Of course in every community there will be found exceptional cases—those who will take advantage of this course to indulge in violations of College rules and gentlemanly propriety, but these cases are not only less frequent than under an opposite system, but the difficulties arising are of infinitely less magnitude. The disorderly find too few sympathizers to make combinations for mischief, even of that venial kind that so often characterizes College life.

In cases of erring pride and passion, I have sought to reform—to raise by counsel and kindness, and not to crush by power; to act the part of parent to reclaim, and not that of a magistrate to punish. If the power by which they have been governed, has been unseen, it has not been less real. If there has been no complicated machinery, by outward appliances to force them into the shape and mould of scholarly manhood, there has been, for those that choose to seek it a life or plastic principle that has developed itself not in a mechanical adaptation to rules and regulations, but in a living conformity to that type or idea of the gentleman and scholar that I have striven to develop in all. But as the sense of honor is not the only nor the highest motive by which we should be governed, I have striven not to neglect to guard over the religious culture which it is presumed the Pupils have received at the fire-sides of their homes. Accompanying this you will find a printed copy of the course of study. By it you will perceive that no new theory of education has been initiated or experimented upon; there has been no starting aside from the old and tested system that has been so productive of great minds. We do not, by new and brilliant theories attract those, (and their name is legion,) who are ever enquiring after some new thing—offering as it were the Apples of Sodom, so inviting to the eye, so disappointing to the taste, but we gladly avail ourselves of the experience of the past, and walk in the old paths, without so tying ourselves to the apron strings of the past as to prevent our modifying our system to suit change of circumstances. Ours is not a manual labor school, where the Pupils are simply taught to dig, to plow, to cook, to be teamsters, or to perform those menial offices that require no more intellect than belongs to the “horn handed breakers of the glebe,” with only so much intellectual culture as can be given in the time spared from labor, nor is our intellectual training confined to one line of thought. Our aim is not to make mere Agriculturists, but to make our Agriculturists liberally educated, liberal minded men, with so much instruction in practical

affairs as will make them wise governors of their own affairs. The Maryland Agricultural College then, is a College in the old fashioned sense of the term, where young men are taught to think. This at least has been our design, and should be the design of all education.

The healthfulness of our locality, is demonstrated by the fact, that during the last five years, the physician's bills have not yet reached the amount of fifty dollars, and for two years they did not amount to four dollars.

Very Respectfully,

HENRY ONDERDONK,

President Maryland Agricultural College.

FEBRUARY 1ST, 1864.

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STATEMENT OF THE INDEBTEDNESS

OF

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Amount due C. B. Calvert, being balance due on purchase of Land,	\$10,000.00	
Interest thereon,	3,000.00	
		————— \$13,000.00
Coupon Bonds,		15,000.00
J. O. Wharton, advances to September, 1862,	8,955.80	
Interest thereon,	716.44	
		————— 9,762.24
Floating debt about.		6,000.00
		————— \$43,762.24

Memoranda of Receipts and Expenditures of

RECEIPTS FROM ALL SOURCES.

1864—January.

Subscription to Capital Stock.....		\$43,472 43
Interest on Subscription to Stock.....	\$240 29	
Discount on Bills paid.....	30 07	
		270 36
Coupon Bonds issued.....	11,000 00	
Less loss on Sales of same.....	1,127 00	
		10,873 00
Acceptances of Trustees.....		1,200 00
Appropriation of the State.....		36,000 00
Board and Tuition of Pupils.....		47,786 72
Sales of Garden and Orchard Produce.....		1,303 23
Sales of Farm Produce to December 1st, 1862.....	4,447 23	
Labor and Produce, Board of Mechanics and Laborers employed in the construction of Col- lege Buildings, and deducted from their bills, from March 1st, 1858, to December 1st, 1862,	9,737 08	
Labor and Produce furnished the College, Pro- fessors and Register, and others, from Decem- ber 1st, 1862, to January 5th, 1864.....	3,883 21	
		18,067 62

1862—September 1.

Cash advanced by C. B. Calvert.....	2,817 83
Cash advanced by J. O. Wharton.....	8,955 80
Amount received from Matron.....	53 80
Amount overdrawn in Chesapeake Bank.....	24

1864—January 5.

Amount advanced by J. O. Wharton.....	385 07
	\$171,186 09

Maryland Agricultural College; up to January 5th, 1864.

EXPENDITURES FOR ALL PURPOSES.

Payment on account Purchase of Lands, being amount of cost of the same.....	\$21,400 00	
Less amount remaining on Vendor's Lien.....	10,000 00	
		\$11,400 00
Improvements of Garden and Orchard.....		3,519 84
Construction of College Building.....		46,002 03
Construction of Professors' Houses.....		7,351 71
Collecting Subscription to Stock.....		3 10
Interest on Coupon Bonds.....	1,386 00	
Interest on States' Appropriation.....	194 11	
		1,580 11
Cost of Farm Implements.....	1,710 76	
Less amount charged Farm for the use of the same.....		680 00
		1,030 76
Cost of Farm Stock.....		2,915 20
Repairs of Farm Buildings.....		991 61
Cost of Labor, Manures, Board of Laborers and Mechanics, &c., &c.....		16,673 45
Acceptances of Trustees refunded.....		400 00
Acceptances of S. Hamilton, included in Receipts.....		200 00
Furniture of College.....	6,662 78	
Salaries of Professors and Officers.....	30,025 00	
		36,687 78
Contingent Expenses of College, embracing Matron's Ex- penses, Supplies, Labor, &c., Insurance, Taxes, Books, Apparatus, &c. &c.....		41,530 47
		\$171,186 09